

**Private Land/Public Wildlife Council
Meeting Summary
June 15-16, 2004
Helena, MT**

Staff Note: All members attended the meeting. Council meeting was scheduled for two days, but Council completed work on Tuesday, June 15th, and adjourned the meeting. Council members spent the entire meeting developing draft recommendations based upon ideas brought forth by various subcommittees appointed to review different aspects of the Hunting Access Enhancement Program.

The next Council meeting will be held August 30-31, 2004 at the Boone & Crockett Ranch near Depuyer. At that meeting, the Council plans to develop final recommendations based upon public input received regarding their draft recommendations.

Listed below are the draft recommendations developed by the Council at the June meeting.

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS
Private Land/Public Wildlife Council
Adopted June 15, 2004**

STAFF NOTE: The PL/PW Council has adopted the following twelve draft recommendations, and will accept public comment through August 4th, 2004. Comments can be submitted electronically through website www.fwp.state.mt.us/hunting/plpw or in writing to: Alan Charles, Coordinator of Landowner/Sportsman Relations, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620.

PROGRAM RE-AUTHORIZATION

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #1: Re-authorize existing program by repealing sunset provisions attached to program statutes and assure continuation of a citizens' review committee.

Existing program includes the following:

- 1) statutes authorizing FWP to administer hunter management/hunting access programs;
- 2) three sources of existing funding for hunting access programs, including but not limited to:
 - a. variable-priced outfitter-sponsored B10 and B11 licenses;
 - b. resident and nonresident Hunting Access Enhancement Fees;
 - c. \$55 of the \$110 nonresident upland bird license;

Rationale:

- *Existing program has proven popular and successful, based on survey data and landowner, hunter, and department participation.*
- *It is the intent of the Council to support FWP in enhancing and improving the hunting access programs.*

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council developed the following 5 recommendations as new sources of additional funding:

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #2: FWP should create a “Montana Access Partners” decal, made available through voluntary purchase at an amount of \$10 annually, with revenue dedicated to helping fund access programs;

Rationale:

- *Provides affordable opportunity for voluntary funding source by interested individuals;*
- *Provides a visible symbol of support for hunting access programs;*

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #3: FWP should establish a trust fund, which could perhaps be administered through the FWP Foundation, providing for voluntary donations with the interest income dedicated to helping fund hunting access programs.

Rationale:

- *Provides an economic incentive for larger contributions by individuals or corporate sponsors through tax and estate planning benefits;*
- *Provides an additional voluntary opportunity for partnership in continuing the success of hunting access programs;*

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #4: FWP should create a Big Game Super Tag program, with unlimited chances sold for a special tag, one each for moose, sheep, goat, elk, and deer, in a lottery-type system which provides for random selection of the permit recipients, with proceeds from the sales dedicated to helping fund the hunting access programs.

Rationale:

- *Patterned after successful programs in other states;*
- *Provides significant funding without a substantial contribution from any one source;*

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #5: FWP should create a new category of license, a Landowner-Sponsored B-10 Elk/Deer Combination License, subject to the following provisions

- **No more than 500 licenses created; licenses do not count against the 17,000 limit;**
- **Licenses are non-transferable;**
- **No landowner may sponsor more than 2 hunters; landowners must designate hunters in advance of license being issued;**
- **License sells for same price as same type license in general category;**

- Landowner must enter into contractual public hunting access agreement with FWP for eligibility to sponsor hunters;
- Net proceeds will be earmarked for hunting access programs;
- Use of the license restricted to the sponsoring landowner's deeded land and interior inholdings of state and federal land where the sponsoring landowner has exclusive authority to grant access;

Rationale:

- *Provides an incentive to involve all landowners in hunting access programs;*
- *Opportunity to increase hunting access to private and isolated public lands;*

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #6: Only if FWP determines it is economically feasible, sale of advertising in the Hunting Access Guides should be considered a possible source of revenue for funding the hunting access programs.

Rationale:

- *Proposal may allow Department to offset some administrative costs;*
- *FWP is currently authorized to use advertising in Department publications;*

AFFECTING THE EXISTING BLOCK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #7: Allow nonresident cooperators to receive complimentary license AND compensation. *(currently nonresident cooperators are eligible to receive complimentary license OR compensation, but not both).*

Rationale:

- *Provides greater equity in compensation to cooperators;*
- *Provides additional landowner incentive to participate in hunting access programs;*

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #8: Allow Block Management Cooperator eligible to receive complimentary license to designate immediate family member or an employee who is employed by such owner or owners as a ranch manager or in a similar capacity to receive the complimentary license instead. *(currently only cooperators are eligible to receive complimentary license).*

Rationale:

- *Provides additional landowner incentive to participate in hunting access programs;*

- *Responds to cooperator requests;*

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #9: FWP should continue to improve and standardize BMA maps, incorporating landowner input for increased accuracy.

Rationale:

- *Addresses problems with trespass;*
- *Responds to hunter/landowner requests;*

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #10: Remove restrictions on impact payments for species/season restrictions under certain wildlife management situations

Rationale:

- *Provides more flexibility in the program;*
- *Addresses wildlife management issues;*

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #11: FWP should hire more game wardens and hunting access technicians, with duties assigned specifically to provide better patrol, management, and enrollment of properties in Block Management.

Rationale:

- *Responds to landowner and hunter requests;*
- *Enhances overall program administration and stability;*

OTHER PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #12: Re-authorize FWP Private Land Fishing Access Program.

Rationale:

- *Existing program is successful and has potential to expand fishing access opportunities;*
- *It is the intent of the Council to support FWP in enhancing and improving the fishing access program.*

